

I am very concerned about the consolidation of the public airwaves, and their use by the owners of these conglomerates to force their stations to air programs that support just one political point of view. A blatant example of this is Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is clearly an in-kind gift to the Bush-Cheney campaign that I believe is against the law. In any case, it is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We need all opinions to be expressed for our democracy to thrive. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.